



## Public Information Release

For More Information, Call:

Deputy Chief Rick Hart  
952-563-8680 Office  
952-292-2686 Cell

For Release Upon Request  
January 13, 2015

### Black Lives Matter Demonstration Update

Prior to the December 20, 2014 Black Lives Matter demonstration at Mall of America, Bloomington Police made every effort to communicate with the organization about their planned event. To ensure the safety and experience of its guests, Mall of America has had a longstanding policy in place that does not allow protests or demonstrations on their site. This policy has been consistently enforced. The Black Lives Matter group was informed that it did not have permission to gather and demonstrate in Mall of America. An alternative location was provided, and rally organizers declined to re-locate the demonstration.

In spite of our efforts, a demonstration took place at Mall of America at about 2:00 pm on December 20th. A large group occupied the East Rotunda area, as well as several other locations inside the mall. Participants were given warnings to disperse as this unlawful assembly was unauthorized. The demonstration continued in various locations at Mall of America for over 2 hours.

25 people were ultimately arrested for a variety of offenses on the day of the demonstration and will be processed through the legal system for these offenses. Additionally, 10 other persons have been formally charged by the Bloomington City Attorney's Office with crimes related to the demonstration to include Unlawful Assembly, Public Nuisance, Trespass and Disorderly Conduct.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

1800 W. OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD, BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027  
PH 952-563-4900 FAX 952-563-4936 TTY 952-563-8740

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